

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I understand the schedule has the potential of finishing up on the Interior bill on Tuesday. Does the leadership have options after Tuesday in terms of what appropriations bills we might go to after Tuesday?

Mr. FRIST. I will be happy to talk. We have been talking several days in advance each time. As the Democratic leader said, our intention is to go to appropriations and stay on appropriations. There is other business as we worked out to address partial-birth abortion and the judges. But the intention is to go to an appropriations bill. The specific one we don't know now. This is Wednesday. We are talking about a week from now. But we will stay in constant touch.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I thank the Chair.

NOMINATION OF RICHARD J. HOLWELL, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Richard J. Holwell, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Richard J. Holwell of New York to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York?

Without objection, the nomination is confirmed.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I am pleased today to speak in support of Richard J. Holwell, who has been nominated to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Mr. Holwell is a 1970 cum laude graduate of Columbia Law School. The following year he earned his diploma in criminology from the Cambridge University Institute of Criminology. He then entered private practice with the New York law firm White & Case, first as an associate, then as a partner. Currently, he heads the firm's global litigation practice.

Mr. Holwell has spent most of his professional career litigating complex securities, antitrust, bankruptcy, and other financial market cases before both trial and appellate courts. He has extensive experience in both civil and criminal investigations conducted by the Department of Justice, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and other Federal agencies.

Mr. Holwell has also been a zealous advocate for the underserved. In 1987, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund awarded him its Pro Bono Award for his successful litigation of *Capers v. Long Island Rail Road*, a 10-year protracted title VII case in which he fought to protect the

rights of black employees. In addition to title VII suits, he has represented indigent clients in landlord-tenant and custody disputes.

Mr. Holwell is an extremely well-qualified nominee. He brings compassion as well as more than 30 years of legal experience to the Federal bench. I am confident that he will be a fine addition to the bench and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting his confirmation.

NOMINATION OF STEPHEN C. ROBINSON, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephen C. Robinson, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I rise today in support of the confirmation of Stephen Robinson to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Mr. Robinson has had a diverse and distinguished legal career. After graduating from the prestigious Cornell Law School, he worked for two corporate law firms, concentrating almost exclusively on civil matters. In 1987, he shifted gears and joined the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, where he represented the United States primarily in criminal trials.

In 1991, Mr. Robinson joined Kroll Associates, an international risk consulting company, serving as an advisor to the company on legal matters and conducting investigations for governments, corporations and law firms.

From 1993 to 1995, Mr. Robinson worked with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, providing advice and counsel to the FBI regarding various policy issues in both civil and criminal matters. Then in 1995, Mr. Robinson became counsel for Aetna U.S. Healthcare, where he provided advice to the internal audit, compliance and investigative services departments and was ultimately promoted to chief compliance officer.

In 1998, Mr. Robinson returned to public service as the U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut. He supervised over 50 lawyers in three offices and set policy and prosecution guidelines for all civil and criminal matters. Additionally, he coordinated the investigative strategy for Federal law enforcement agencies, while managing all aspects of the office's operations, including budget, personnel and press issues. For the past 2 years, he has worked with Empower New Haven, Inc., a nonprofit corporation.

Mr. Robinson's extensive experience in both the public and private sectors makes him amply qualified for judicial service. He possesses the qualifica-

tions, the capacity, and the temperament a judge needs to serve on the Federal bench.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If all time is yielded, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Stephen C. Robinson, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York?

Without objection, the nomination is confirmed.

NOMINATION OF P. KEVIN CASTEL, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of P. Kevin Castel, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I am pleased today to speak in support of P. Kevin Castel, who has been nominated to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Mr. Castel is a highly regarded litigator. Upon graduating from St. John's University School of Law in 1975, he clerked for Judge Kevin Duffy on the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. Following his clerkship, he worked as an associate for Cahill Gordon & Reindel until 1983, when he was elevated to partner and where he remains today.

Mr. Castel has focused much of his professional career on complex commercial litigation, including securities, antitrust, intellectual property, employment and products liability cases. Furthermore, as president of the Federal Bar Council, he has written extensively on corporate litigation issues.

In addition to the Federal Bar Council, Mr. Castel holds leadership positions in other notable organizations, including the New York State Bar Association and the Legal Aid Society.

Mr. Castel will bring 20 years of legal experience and sharp acumen to the Federal bench. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting his nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If all time is yielded, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of P. Kevin Castel, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York?

Without objection, the nomination is confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider these votes are laid on the table.

Under the previous order, the President will be immediately notified of the confirmation of these nominations.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to be allowed to speak for up to 5 minutes as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. ALEXANDER pertaining to the introduction of S. 1628 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. REID. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, what is the matter now before the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. H.R. 2691, the Interior appropriations bill, is now before the Senate.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am going to send an amendment to the desk. I have spoken with both leaders. I have not spoken with Senator BURNS. I have spoken through his staff to him. I have spoken, of course, to Senator DORGAN. I am sending this amendment to the desk with the understanding that we will not vote on it until after the caucus on Tuesday. The reason for that is this is a very important amendment for this side. We want to make sure we have the opportunity on Tuesday to speak on it, all 49 members of the Democratic caucus, prior to the vote.

AMENDMENT NO. 1731

(Purpose: To prohibit the use of funds for initiating any new competitive sourcing studies)

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk not only on my behalf but on the behalf of Senators LIEBERMAN, LANDRIEU, KENNEDY, and MURRAY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mrs. MURRAY, proposes an amendment numbered 1731:

On page 137, between lines 23 and 24, insert the following:

SEC. 3. COMPETITIVE SOURCING STUDIES.

None of the funds made available by this Act shall be used to initiate any competitive sourcing studies after the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this is a very short amendment, but it affects the lives of thousands and thousands of people who work for the Park Service. It affects the lives of every American who enjoys the great resources of our country.

The amendment I sent to the desk will stop this administration from moving forward to privatize our national parks, forest lands, and other public lands. It would nip the administration's ill-conceived privatization plan in the bud.

More specifically, this amendment prohibits the expenditure of funds on new outsourcing studies. These are privatization studies for the agencies funded in this bill. These agencies were created to protect special places in nature as a legacy for future generations. They should be managed for posterity and not managed for profit.

The House of Representatives has agreed that privatization is a bad idea. It included this language in the Interior appropriations bill that passed in July. The Nation's hard-working public servants who care for our forests and parks not only collect fees and maintain parks, but also give directions, fight wildfires, and help injured visitors.

Volunteers who love our public spaces provide tens of thousands of hours of work for these agencies every year. Will contractors receive volunteers? Will there be volunteers for these people who are working for profit in our national resources, our national treasures? It is very unlikely.

While the administration's plan has been marketed as a cost-saving measure, just the opposite is true. Privatization will waste taxpayer dollars. Privatization studies may cost as much as \$8,000 per position studied. This means that next year, the agencies funded in this bill could waste as much as \$26.4 million on these studies, studies for a wrongheaded idea that is bad for our parks, forests, the people who care for them, and the people who visit these parks.

Also, these contractors lack the knowledge of the sites that public servants possess. They are at the sites for one reason: Not people, but profit. I have nothing against profit motive. I think it is great selling cars, books, shoes, clothes—virtually everything. I certainly don't think it is a good idea to privatize our beautiful resources, our national treasures.

At a recreation area in Nevada, a contractor designed metal courtesy docks to be built in an area where temperatures reach up to 120 degrees in the summer. These docks would have burned visitors in the months when the docks were the busiest. The discarded design cost \$21,000 in taxpayer money, and instead of building five courtesy docks as intended, the recreation area only had funding to build two docks.

Nevadans visiting our public places, Americans visiting our public places want professionals enriching their experience by directing them to famous sites and the best-kept secrets of our parks.

These are a few things people have written to me about on this subject. Zephyr Cove, NV, is in the Lake Tahoe region. It surrounds Lake Tahoe. This is not a public employee, but she says:

I'm one small voice, but I'm convinced that privatization of our National Park System would be another step to demolishing what little resources we have now and what we can hope to gain in the future to hold and treasure for future generations.

She says further:

Many of the Park Service personnel are neighbors and our friends. They care deeply about what they do. Their pay is relatively low for the expertise they have. They do it because they know the value of protecting our parks, wildlife habitats, and environment.

I do not know for sure if the administration's true agenda here is to undermine that commitment to our national parks, forests, and other public lands. I don't know that, but that is what many feel.

An editorial in The Tennessean believes that. Editorializing recently against this plan, the paper had this to say:

... privatizing the professionals on whom the parks depend to manage resources will rid the administration of those pesky folks who keep pointing out what harm has been done by President Bush's reckless environmental policies.

This is an editorial that was written in The Tennessean on August 29, 2003.

We have heard not only from newspapers around the country and people who don't work for the public entities, but we also heard from public custodians of our treasures. I am not going to use their names here, of course. They might somehow be harmed at work.

One public employee writes:

The depth and breadth of loyalty that is inherent to the average [public] employee cannot be contracted out.

And he is absolutely right. The public employees my amendment would honor share a lot in common with Members of this body, our staffs, our police, and others who work here. They, like us, sought their jobs to serve other people and to advance positive goals and ideals. It is that motivation and loyalty that cannot be outsourced no matter how much money we throw at studying it.

The privatizing concept, as set forth in The Tennessean, says it all:

... privatizing the professionals on whom the parks depend to manage resources will rid the administration of those pesky folks who keep pointing out what harm has been done by President Bush's reckless environmental policies.

Loyalty, public service, and dedication to our public lands cannot be outsourced. It cannot be privatized.

I hope people understand these great national parks we have. These are treasures. These national parks are the envy of the world. Nevada is fortunate, but we only have one national park. It is a wonderful place, Great Basin National Park, a very new national park. It is small by national park standards, about 80,000 acres. It has a 13,000-foot mountain on it, Wheeler Peak. It has a glacier. It has the oldest living thing in the world, a bristlecone pine.

These trees are over 5,000 years old. Think about that—trees that started